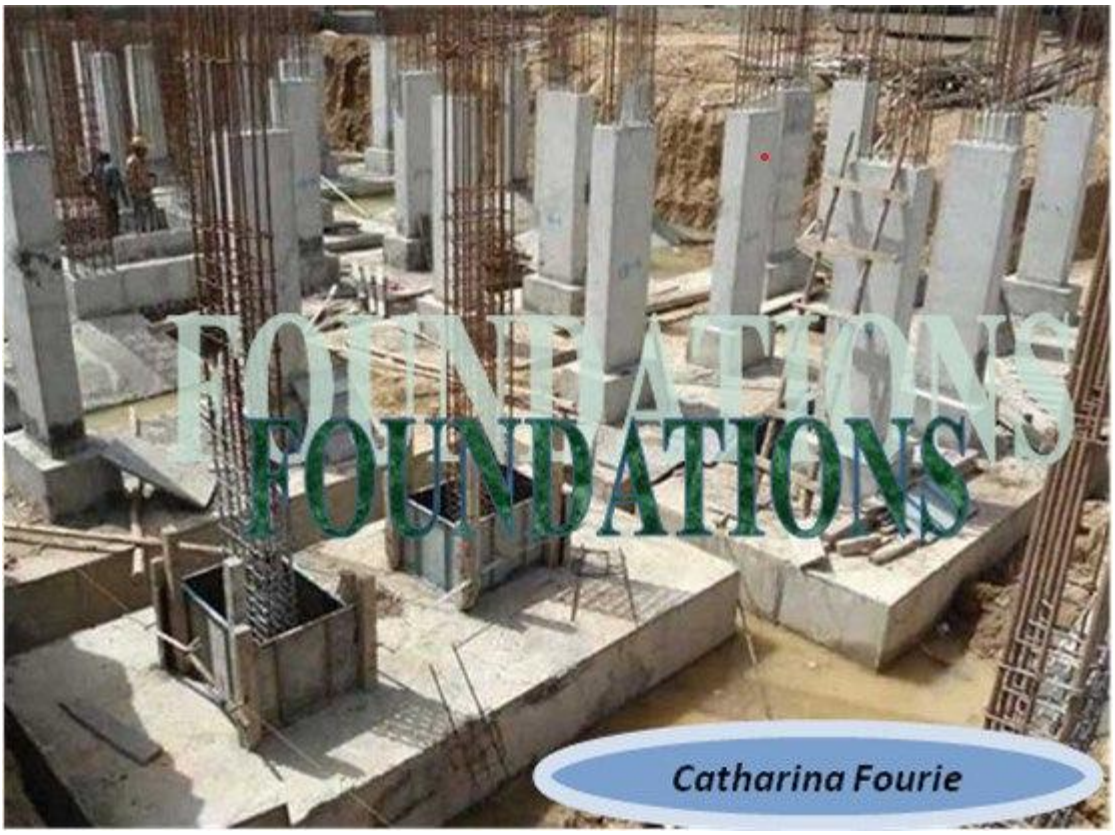

FOUNDATIONS

BY

CATHARINA FOURIE

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FOREWORD

Wow! What a revelation. Straight from the Throne room of God. No need to spend years wandering around in the wilderness. The Lord has revealed the strategy for coming into alignment with His original plans and purposes for our lives.....Jer 29:11. He is able to redeem back their time...all the wasted years and lost and stolen opportunities.

Let us study this blueprint from the Lord for our lives. Let us review our foundations, soil, blueprint and tools etc. For He knows the thoughts and plans that He has for us... plans to prosper us, to give us a hope and not of evil.

There is therefore no longer any need to wander aimlessly around in the wilderness. Let us follow His strategy and come into alignment with His plans and purposes for our lives, that we may fulfill our Destiny on earth in peace.

For the evil one prowls around as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. But our God is faithful to His everlasting Covenant and has made a way of escape to restore us to His original mandate for our lives.
May we all follow these footsteps to fulfill our God-ordained Destiny on earth in peace, in Jesus name!
Blessings

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INTRODUCTION

When I told the Lord that I wanted to serve Him radically, He moved me to a small seaside town and sent a Pastor on a bicycle to my door. Then He spoke to me in that small still voice that I did not know was the Holy Spirit but He dropped in my mind a scripture. Ezra 5. I did not even know where to find it, but after a search I found it and went to chapter 5. It was all about building up the temple. I had no idea what that was about and the Pastor on the bicycle told me to write it down and draw a line in the middle of the page and write down any words that stood out. I tried but still was puzzled. Only years later I realized the temple He was talking about was me. And He was going to build on it.

Then He gave me Haggai 1:8 Go up to the hill country and bring lumber and rebuild [My] house, and I will take pleasure in it and I will be glorified, says the Lord [by accepting it as done for My glory and by displaying My glory in it].
He gave me this scripture many times over the years. Then He added: Habakkuk 2:

2:2 And the Lord answered me and said, Write the vision and engrave it so plainly upon tablets that everyone who passes may [be able to] read [it easily and quickly] as he hastens by.

2:3 For the vision is yet for an appointed time and it hastens to the end [fulfilment]; it will not deceive {or} disappoint. Though it tarry, wait [earnestly] for it, because it will surely come; it will not be behindhand on its appointed day.
Once again He gave me this scripture many times over the years, Then He added "Nehemiah, finish the task". I went and did an in-depth study of Nehemiah and it was all about building up the walls and restoring the gates. I still did not understand what this was about. One day in prayer He told me to build a prayer altar, which I did, I kept on praying and praying and Then I heard "Go and build up my church". I told Him OK just tell me how!

I have been dealing over the years with people whose lives just seem to go in circles and they never seem to get to a point where they get a breakthrough. It was frustrating and often I would tell some of them I am not a marriage counselor. But I was not dealing with marriage problems I was dealing with foundations in their lives, and I discussed this with someone and suddenly I knew that the building I was busy with had nothing to do with marriage or faith or anything that I had been trying to do, trying to encourage and pray and getting frustrated because nothing worked. No matter what I suggested never seem to solve the problem and praying brought no answers.

I heard the word foundation, and then went and looked at pictures of foundations and I thought I am not a builder how am I going to figure this out. BUT when you work for the Lord He will sort it out. So I read up on foundations and thought how I am going to figure out what the Lord is saying. I noticed that they mentioned soils, and building materials and I tried to put them in a spiritual concept. I realized that God was talking about people not physical buildings.

I discussed this with someone and suddenly a light went on. I knew what the Lord was saying. I had to look at the problem from the beginning. You see we all have foundations in our lives, our parents, grandparents, circumstances, influences, decisions we made, so many aspects of our lives that formed us to be the person we are today. I am going to give examples of some people's lives that shaped them into a building that was built on sand that shifted and caused them to become like the leaning Tower of

Pisa. Others had their walls come crashing down time and time again. Some kept going in circles and never seemed to find a solution for their lives, nothing they tried ever worked. Others just gave up and very often they even landed up committing suicide, life was just too hard.

I asked myself where it went wrong. I have spoken to many people and was surprised at how their lives ended up although they became born again Christians, they never seem to be able to put the past behind them. I hope this book is going to bring some answers to the many questions of WHY? WHY? WHY? Is my life such a mess? I thought I would begin with the building of the foundation when the Lord once again interrupted me and said BLUEPRINTS this puzzled me until I realized that it all begins with HIM!

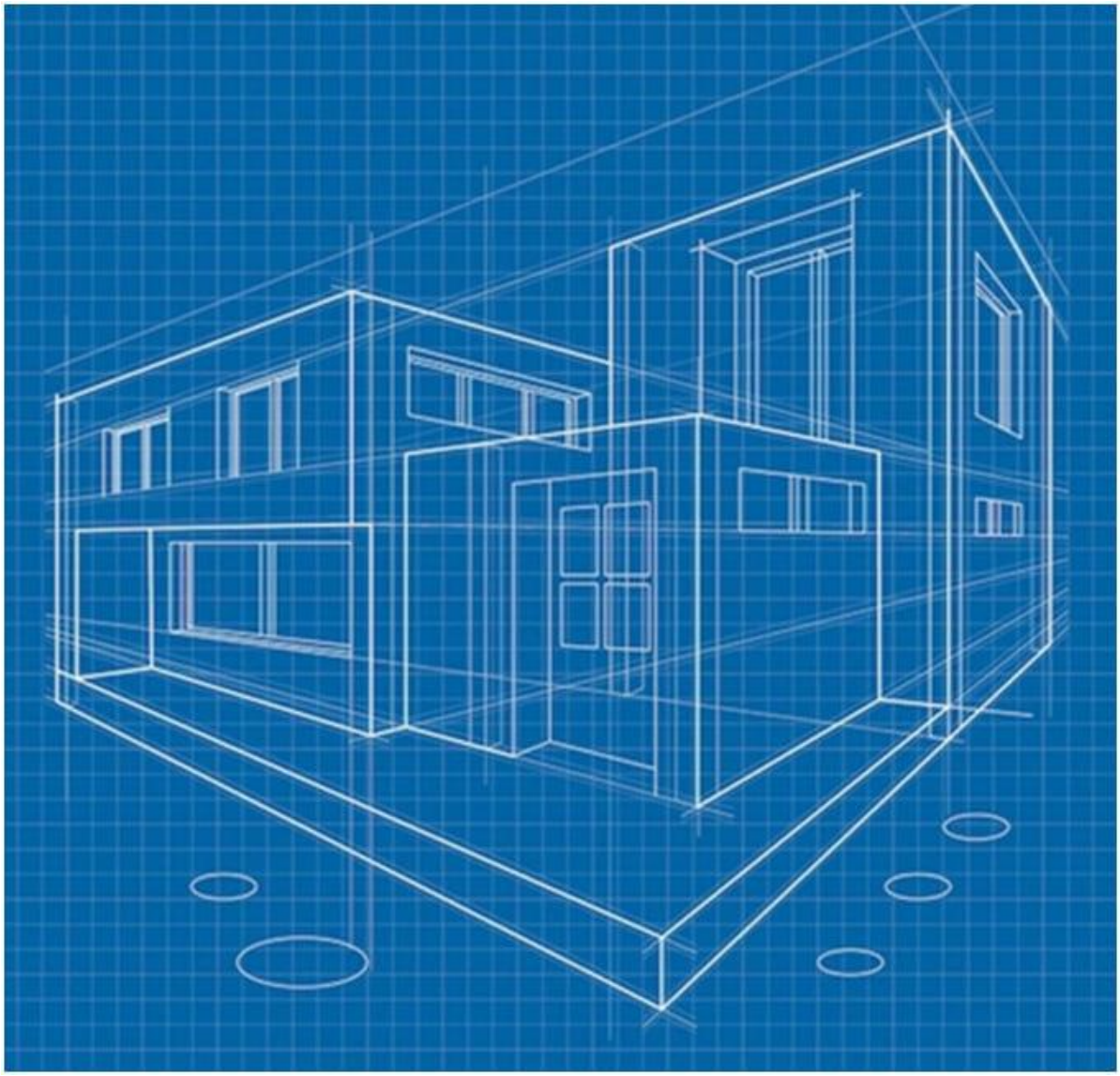
No matter what you believe of God, or if you do not even believe in Him, you started with Him. I will explain in the next chapter.

I want to thank my niece and nephew Petrus and Rene du Randt for their help in editing and writing this book, your help is much appreciated and I know the Lord is going to bless you.

I also want to thank my mentors, for helping me in the building process when God placed me in your loving care. Rita, Lucienne, Ivan, Cathryn, Juanita, and Marie my angel that God sent me, you guys built me up and helped me to step into what God wanted me to do for His Kingdom. Katjie and Annette for your kindness and love and support. You see when God starts building on you He sends builders to build you up so that you can become a strong building that He can use and that building becomes a haven for others that are broken and you in turn have to build them up. May God bless you all and use you in other people's lives the way He used you in mine.

CHAPTER ONE

BLUEPRINTS



In Jeremiah God says:-

29:11 For I know the thoughts {and} plans that I have for you, says the Lord, thoughts {and} plans for welfare {and} peace and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome.

29:12 Then you will call upon Me, and you will come and pray to Me, and I will hear {and} heed you.

29:13 Then you will seek Me, inquire for, {and} require Me [as a vital necessity] and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.(AMP)

> These are the blueprints that God has for us before we were born. He never intended for us to be in turmoil, sickness and death. He wanted only the best for us. So that one day we would seek Him and find Him.

God also told him, 1:5 Before I formed you in the womb I knew [and] approved of you [as My chosen instrument], and before you were born I separated {and} set you apart, consecrating you; [and] I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.

Let us go back to Genesis, when God created man, I heard this being preached by Robyn Bolluck and I am so grateful that God led me to the video to give us this revelation.

I saw in a vision how two children made a cast of their hands and gave it to their mother as a present on Mother's day, well that is what God did when He created man, Robyn said God watered the earth from the river of life that flows out of His throne, and then He lay down in that wet soil and made a cast of Himself and this was in day 3 and in day six He went back to that spot and uncovered the earth and opened a grave about 6 feet deep and there lay His cast, it looked just like Him and He lay down on that man and breathed the spirit into that body and when He did that man's soul came alive. He raised Him up out of that hole and stood him there in front of Him and said "if you ever sin (comparing the death on the cross which took 3 days and nights) I have planned your redemption, I will take on flesh and die and at the end of 3 days and nights I will rise up from the dead" that was a prophesy of the lamb that was slain from the foundation of the world. Remember that God made that man family, He wanted a relationship, many grow up feeling, lost, guilty, rejected, and sorry for themselves. But when God made that man He was saying "Adam I put my life in your hands", it was Adam's decision to sin.

Just think on this "You are the offspring of Almighty God".

It is that relationship that Satan wants to break, that is why man falls to pieces because that bond is broken. Man starts to seek something, we want to get away from the pain, or we seek peace, but Satan wants to lead us into destruction. That is his main plan. Man gave creation away to the enemy and God had to become a man to come and take it back. What you allow in your mind mends or breaks the relationship with God. You always hear people say God is good, BUT He allows things to happen. No we allow it through the fallen sin of Adam.

When I heard the word BLUEPRINTS I saw a vision of a baby in the womb. Here God is telling Jeremiah that He knew him before he was in his mother's womb, how was that possible? Because you see, we come from God, we are spirit beings in flesh bodies, and we come out of God, He also says in the Bible "I knit you in your mother's womb. Psalms 139:13-14 (NIV) for you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

So, if we are fearfully and wonderfully made and God knitted us into the womb, why did our lives turn out such a mess?

Before you were born, God had already prepared a blueprint for your life. He had wonderful plans for your life, what went wrong? Some people seem to get it right, they grow up to be successful and wealthy and everything indicates they were born with a silver spoon in their mouth. But sometimes if you really look very close, they are lonely people who put up a front and pursue money and riches, but inside they are dead. Others have nothing, and they seem to be some of the happiest people on the earth. It seems that God's blueprints did not quite produce the mansion He had envisioned for them,

The reason why Jeremiah became a prophet was because **he obeyed**, When God told him he was called to be one, he protested, made excuses, he said he was too young etc. But God told Him that He was called and because He obeyed, he went through sad times, and it was not easy but in the end he was successful at what God had called him to do.

Jonah was called and ran away, and he died, and God had to get a fish to swallow him and spit him out on the sand before Jonah, wet, full of seaweeds, ran to complete the task. He did not understand why God had called him to save Nineveh, and many of us do not know why God called us to do what we do, but if we are obedient we will reap the rewards. But the bible also says "many are called but few are chosen" why? Who knows, maybe they refuse, or life just gets in the way. We are all born with gifts and talents but some never discover what they are. God intended for each baby that was put in the womb to return to Him, but circumstances and who knows what else got in the way and many land up in hell. The Word says "seek and you shall find, knock and it will be opened for you" but most people just ignore that or do not even know about it, and land up with broken walls, and lives that are in a total mess.

God did not create you to become a thief, a murderer, a drug addict, a bum, a smuggler, an alcoholic. No He had such good plans for your life, now why does this happen to people. To get the answer we have to go and look at the building process and what went wrong.

CHAPTER TWO

THE SOIL

Before you can start to dig the foundation you have to study the blueprint, you have to know how wide the building is going to be, how high the building will be, what the purpose of the building will be. The bible says some things about soil that we will study but let us look at a normal building.

A) The bearing capacity of the soil: This determines how much load a certain soil should tolerate.
B) The type of soil: Different kinds of soil have different features that can play a role in their suitability for supporting a foundation.
C) Depth of freezing: The depth of the ground which freezes in the coldest time of the year is called freezing depth or cold line
D) Underground water table: an underground water table could limit the depth of the foundation in addition to the materials that can be used in it. The height of underground water is usually considered in a soil study.
E) The minimum depth: By ignoring other factors, the minimum depth of a foundation is generally not lower than 75 centimeters.
Here we can see that the type of soil you put the foundation in is very important, so how does this apply to humans.

One of the first things that I learnt when I became born-again was to deal with ancestral curses. You see the soil which you come out of is made up of your ancestors, Grandma, granddad, mother, and father, etc. It is a good thing to study up your family history to find out what they got up to, what they believed, and any curses that continue down the family line because of sins that were committed. God had good plans for your life so why did it get all messed up. In Deuteronomy 28 you will find a list of curses that God said would happen to them if they disobeyed His commandments, the important thing to note was that these curses would continue in the family down to the 3rd and 4th generation.

When you visit a doctor's office for the first time, they hand you a piece of paper to fill out, have you noticed what they ask? For instance – what diseases are found in your family? What diseases are you suffering from? This information will allow the doctor to determine if there is recurring illness in the family that he has to look out for. Have you noticed that some families have illnesses that repeat in the family generation after generation, such as cancer? I noticed that in my family especially on my mother's side there was a lot of cancer, many of my relatives, including my mother, her sisters and many of my cousins, all died of cancer. I still have not found out where that curse came from, but I did learn that I could cut it off, and a few years ago I decided to go to a doctor for a checkup, you know just in case, well she chased me out of her office telling me that "this place is for sick people go home" Praise God. I had cut it off pulling up the roots of that tree of curse and throwing it in the fire in Jesus Name. I am soon turning 76 and I must say I am remarkably healthy.

You see the soil that I was planted in was not good soil, as far as sicknesses was concerned, many of my relatives died young. My mom was only 45. But sickness is only one type of soil. Was there other curses or bad soil that you were planted in? Divorce is one which became very bad in the time that I was married in, most of the young people that were married at the same time as us are divorced. Even though in my husband's side of the family his parents were divorced we made a pact that we would stay together and Praise God 54 years later we are still married. You see we decided that that bad soil was not going to affect the building of our marriage. It was a decision that we made, not that the enemy did not try to destroy it, but we kept our covenant with each other.

As I contemplated on the soil I thought of other people like my brother, we had the same soil and the same upbringing in the church. My father was adamant that we go to church every Sunday and even though he liked to fish, he would wait for us to come back from church before taking us fishing. We spent many days and hours together doing things. I grew to respect and love my father. He was an ambulance driver and often he was on standby so he could not go to church, but he made sure we had that foundation of the Word in our lives,

We grew up in a very loving family, spoilt by my Aunts and Uncles and had a happy childhood, we were not dirt poor but both parents had to work to pay the rent etc. and I was puzzled at why my brother's life turned out different from mine. We came from the same soil but nothing seemed to work out for him. He was an excellent rugby player and could have gone on to play for the major teams in the country, but I figured out that something happened to him when my mom died. He did not have such a close relationship with my father as I had and when she died he was devastated. I think then for the rest of his life he kept looking for that relationship in woman whom he married and they all left him, he also became an alcoholic and his life fell apart. No matter how hard he tried marriage did not work for him. It was also

the choices he made in the kind of woman he married. Our soils were the same but circumstances, choices and decisions can allow your building to collapse.

If you think of people who come from broken homes, or their mothers were on drugs while they were pregnant, or you had an abusive father, so many soils are contaminated, I met a young girl who was going through deliverance, and her mother had dedicated her to Satan when she was born. She told us that at night she could hear werewolves at her door, scratching and howling, but because she had given her life to God they could not enter. Imagine that your soil was the breeding place for such evil.

Imagine your mother just walking out and leaving you as a baby, or maybe even dying while she was giving birth to you, you never knew your mother. Often stepmothers are terrible, hating you and abusing you, how is your building suppose to stand when the soil is not stable. Even children who are born to Godly parents often rebel as teenagers, wanting to go and experience the world with their peers. You see Adam and Eve our ancestors were made in the image of God but the devil came and caused them to sin and that was where evil came into the world. No matter what kind of soil you were planted in, at some stage of your life you had to make choices that will affect the building of your life. God could have decided that man would fall and take over the shaping of their lives, but then we would be mere puppets in His hand, He decided to give us free will, to decide for ourselves, whether we would be a broken down shack or a magnificent mansion.

If your life is in a mess, you should go and examine the soil that you had been planted in that would maybe explain why your life turned out the way it did. I had good soil, circumstances did not allow me to become a mansion, as far as worldly standards go, but I always had a relationship of sorts with God, I was pulled towards going to church, and actually felt guilty if I did not go, as a teenager I pursued God with all I had to get my salvation. Unfortunately the church I attended did not disciple me, but like Jeremiah I must have had a call on my life and eventually God led me to Him and now I serve Him. I did lead my brother to the Lord before He died and I am sure he is in heaven now, but it always broke my heart that his life was such a mess, I came to the conclusion that my brother was seeking a mother's love that he had lost when she died so young and no matter where he searched he did not find it. What are you seeking and not finding that led you into your mess, causing your building to be built on the wrong soil?

I would recommend that you go and examine the soil that you came out of, and you will see why there are challenges in your life that you do not seem to get away from. There is hope and if you make a decision to get help, God can rebuild your foundation in Him and make a mansion of you yet.

You see the decision lies with you, God gave you free will, there is always help available if you need it, but few people want to go to others to get help, some believe they can do it themselves, often in the movies I see drug addicts go to meetings and share with the others there and encourage each other, the same with alcoholics, they attend AA meetings, there are places where they take in young men who are into drugs, but often when they stop going to these meetings, one incident can lead them back into the place where they are tempted to start again, that is the tactic of the devil, to put you in situations that you feel you hit rock bottom again. If the soil you were planted in is soiled or unstable, it is very hard to build on. But no matter what soil you were planted in if you trust God He can restore your life.

We cannot choose the soil that we are sowed into, but God can use us regardless of what life handed us, He can take a broken down shack and mold it into a Mansion we just have to let Him do the building.

CHAPTER THREE

FOUNDATIONS

We have examined the soil and now we are going to look at foundations. There are good foundations and evil foundations.

Good foundations are ones that does not cause any problems to the builder as the building process is completed. I recently saw a picture of the leaning tower of Pisa which had problems with the soil and they tried to fix it but realized that it was a tourist attraction and left it leaning, just adjusting it so that it does not topple over. But other buildings around the world have been built on good soil and are still standing after many years, which mean that they are built on solid soil. This is what happens to people that have good foundations; they keep standing no matter what life throws at them. Some say you were just lucky to have good parents, wealth and good luck in your life and no matter what happens you live a joyful, fruitful life. In some places they say you were born on the right or wrong side of the track.

My father lived in a house on the grounds where he worked and one day I noticed that there was a crack in the corner of the living room, it seemed as if the wall was pulling apart. It was an old

building but it was not ancient. Obviously something was wrong either with the soil, the foundation or the building material used to build the wall. Some people's lives are like that, they start off good but something happens and their building starts to crack. When I first saw Princess Diana I was amazed at her beauty and she seemed to be so happy, but soon there were stories of how unhappy she was and eventually her marriage fell apart. Even being a Princess does not guarantee that life will be full of joy. Now another princess married her prince and she is beautiful and much admired only to reveal that she now has cancer.

You know, the foundation of a house is something people often forget to consider when they buy a home. But the truth is, nothing is more important than the foundation, both in the natural and in the spiritual realm.

When people move to California, they look at the sky and say it's beautiful. They feel the climate and say it's wonderful. But the one thing they never think about is the ground under their feet. Some have even bought property on top of the San Andreas Fault! Those people don't realize that the foundation is the most important consideration of all when building a home.

Jesus built a solid foundation in His own life for thirty years before beginning His ministry—a ministry that lasted only three and a half years. During those years of ministry, Jesus' focus continued to be on building a foundation—this time in the lives of the people who would receive His sayings. Often when Jesus talked to people about their lives, He'd speak to them concerning their foundation. Luke 6:46-50 is the classic example:

> **"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?**
>
> **"Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like:**
>
> **"He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock.**
>
> **"But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great."**

Our purpose in life should be to build the foundation of our lives on the principals of God's word. Our principals should not change because of the situations or relationships in our lives change. No matter what we should stay firmly built on the Word of God. Nothing in life is guaranteed. A good foundation can be destroyed by earthquakes, floods etc. just as a good life can be destroyed by just one incident. My mom told me of a lady

waiting at the church for her husband to arrive by wagon pulled by horses. Something happened and the horses veered and the cart capsized and the groom was killed. That lady was looking forward to happy long life with her future husband and it was destroyed by an accident. She lost her mind and spent the rest of her life in an asylum. You see her foundation was good but circumstances derailed the building process. Others live a long and happy life and nothing seemed to go wrong that would bring the house down. As I was thinking of writing about the foundations the Lord recalled what had happened in my life. As I said the soil was good the foundation I thought was good but something could really have derailed the whole building process. I come from Scottish soil, and later I found out that many people from this country are born with the birth sack over their eyes. They think it is a blessing but it turned out to be a curse. You see when this happened to me, my third eye was opened, they called it being fey, you were able to see into the spirit realm, you could sense demonic powers etc. Most people would say that is cool, but I had to put up with a lot of demonic activity in my life. My mom told me that when I was a little girl we walked into a room and I saw a sheep on the wall. That did not make sense, but then I noticed that my mom and most of her sisters could see, feel and sense these things too. Premonitions' were one way this manifested. My mom begged us not to go to the beach one weekend, but we did not know why so we went and landed up having an accident. Then I noticed that whenever someone in my family died I had three nightmares where there was a lot of blood. And soon after these dreams someone in my family would die. I dreaded these dreams but felt powerless to prevent it. Thinking back I realized that as a child I often sensed two demonic entities standing next to my bed, I did not know how to deal with this and so I just turned my back on them and went to sleep. I found that I would walk into a room and my hair would stand up on my neck and arms, I immediately knew that there was something in the room. I also remembered that I would sometimes start to question that there was a God and a voice would whisper in my ear that He did not exist. I realize now that it was a demon. The end result of this so called gift could have led me into becoming a fortuneteller or dabbling in the occult. Thanks to the good soil and my parent's insistence that I go to church, this did not happen. But so many build on this foundation and land up in building on a false foundation and Satan will use this to lead you into his kingdom and although you may think you are happy and prosperous and joyful, there will come a day when the enemy comes to collect and then your beautiful mansion that you think you built will come crashing down.

Thank God He sent someone who prayed my third eye closed and now I live demon free, not that they still try, the enemy never gives up but with the help of Holy Spirit you can keep them at bay.

In the Word God says: - Proverbs 22; 6

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." –KJV

I believe this is good foundation. Build on the rock which is Jesus and His word. I also believe that prayer is a good building material to put into that foundation, keep praying for your children. Put prayer into that foundation. If you read the story of that young man that went surfing around the world, he was not interested in the bible or God, but his mother kept on praying for him. She kept that foundation of prayer steady and deep. One day he was stung by hundreds of jellyfish and even though they got him to a hospital he died. He met Jesus and was told that he should be sent to hell, but for the prayers of his mother, Jesus said "I can't let her prayers fall to the ground" and offered him salvation. He accepted the Lord as his savior but asked to be sent back because if he stayed dead his mother would think he would be

in hell, and the Lord sent him back. Imagine the joy of that mother when he walked in and said “I am saved”.

No matter how good your foundation is, life can sometimes throw you a curveball and you feel that your walls are falling down and you lost everything and life is not worth living, remember that God who created the universe and created you can rebuild your life into a beautiful mansion. Remember He said I knew you before you were born and had great plans for your future. Before you go on, and think my building is just a little broken down shack, God can rebuild you if you only let Him. Turn to the master builder and ask Him to put His foundation on your life. Remember that Jesus came to pay the price on the cross for your sins; do not think that your sins are too many for God to redeem you. Just call out to Him, by the way His telephone number is Jeremiah 33; 3 “call to me and I will answer” He never has a busy line, does not need WIFI and is always at the end of the line.

God really threw me into this building project and I was wondering why He had me study Nehemiah, and told me to finish the task. I thought I was finished with the project but I know He is still building, and I thank Him for giving me this inspiration to write about this subject and I pray that it will help many people in the world who need to hear this word. No matter what the problem, God can solve it. He called Nehemiah to rebuild the walls and gates, He called Ezra to rebuild the temple, and He is calling us to rebuild our lives according to His blueprint and like in Nehemiah He will supply all the materials we need to rebuild our broken lives into that beautiful mansion that He planned before He even put us in our mother’s womb.

Are you called to be a builder? Allow God to lead you to those who are broken so that you can help them with God’s guidance to rebuild their lives. There are just too many people living in this broken world, which give up and commit suicide or go on with broken foundations and end up in jail or destroying other people’s lives and their own.

Recently I heard a Pastor ask a young man what is going on in his life. He replied “I am gay”. He then asked him to tell him about his life. He said that his father used to tell him “I hate you”. Imagine what that did to that young man, growing up knowing only hatred, the one person who should have shaped his future only gave him hatred, and then when he was sixteen, he met a 42 yr old man and he said “he gave me love”. The Pastor looked at him and said “you are not gay, you were molested by a Pedophile, and the wrong kind of love led you to think that the only love you can get is from another man”. You would think that the opposite would happen, if you were hated by a man, you would never be able to trust another man, but in this case the young man was deceived and his life was ruined. If you asked a gay person to tell you their story I bet it would be similar to this young man’s story.

Looking at foundations in people’s lives is very interesting but mostly sad, the devil is ever ready to derail the building process wherever he can, and then adds building materials to complete the process that leads to destruction.

Look at your life and see what foundations were laid in your life, it may explain why your life is turning out the way it is. Just remember that if you trust God in your life He is able to break down and remove the rubble just as He did in Nehemiah’s time and if you will allow Him to rebuild the foundation and walls and gates, you will have a strong building that the enemy cannot destroy no matter how hard he tries, and God will protect your building so that the enemy cannot get inside to steal and kill and destroy.

John 10:10 AMP -...

The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have {and} enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows).

Sometimes it seems that you have no choice about the foundation laid in your life, your parents were not born again, or did not believe in God, you grew up in a religion that had many gods, or they believed in a certain god, or religion, or you grew up in a country that believed the president was a god. Or your family was into the New Age religion that must be very confusing because they combine many religions and actually lead you into the occult. They refuse to believe in God or Jesus or the Holy Spirit, but believe in mother earth, or the universe, and you say that you cannot believe in our God. Some say God does not exist, and it is fate that decides your future. It is very hard to try to convince these people that they are building on something that is false. As a nurse my mother once told me that she could see whether people believed in God or not, because when they died, if they believed in God, they died with a smile on their face, so peacefully. But if they did not believe in God, they had expressions of fear on their faces and often screamed out their last breath. That should make you think. There are only two places to go to when you die and you better choose the right one. Parents lay the right foundation in the lives of your children, they may not want to believe you, but one day they will realize that you were right and their lives would have been so much better if only they had allowed you to lay the right foundation in their life.

CHAPTER FOUR

BUILDING MATERIALS.

I. BEFORE BUILDING.

1. Count the cost (Luke 14:28).

2. Prepare fit matter (2 Chronicles 2:8, 9; 1 Corinthians 3:12).

3. Prepare skilful and faithful builders. Some build a wall, but daub it with un-tempered mortar, which the shower and hailstones throw down again (Ezekiel 13:11). Some flattering builders that gild rotten posts and mud walls, and by flatteries cause people to err (Jeremiah 23.). Some that squares their work by a false rule; not the Word, but some school-learning.

II. IN BUILDING.

1. Lay a good foundation, both for matter and manner.

(1) The matter is Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11).

(2) Then the manner of laying this foundation sure is to dig deep, as you know the foundation of a great house had need to be. Lay it in humility and godly sorrow, called in Hebrews 6:1 the foundation of repentance, because it can never be laid without a deep sense of sorrow for sin, giving us a clear sight what need we have of Christ.

2. Lay all the materials skillfully upon the same foundation; for building is an artificial coupling of all materials by square upon the same foundation. So here —

(1) There is use of many materials. In every mean house there must be somewhat of everything, some stone, timber, lime, lead, glass, iron, and in this building must be some degrees of all graces — some faith, hope, love, knowledge, and the rest. Faith as gates of brass, and doors to let us in unto Christ and His Church for salvation; knowledge as windows to lighten the house, or else all would be dark; hope as the glass or casements to look out to things believed, specially the life to come; love as the cement to knit all together; patience as the pillars, bearing all the weight of the house, etc.

(2) These and the rest of the graces must be laid together (2 Peter 1:5).

(3) By line and square of the Word (Exodus 25:40).

(4) All upon the same foundation — Christ.

3. Build up to the laying of the roof and ridge tiles, still striving to perfection (Hebrews 6:1; Ephesians 2:21).

III. AFTER BUILDING.

1. As the Jews, having built a house, must dedicate it to the Lord. Especially the temple and tabernacle were solemnly set apart for His service and sacrifices. Do you also offer in this your house the daily sacrifice of prayer, praise, alms which smell sweet (Philippians 4:18). Let it be the house of prayer, a spiritual house, to offer spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:5). Offer your soul and body a reasonable sacrifice, living and holy (Romans 12:1), which is the right dedication of your house.

2. Furnish the house with needful utensils, such as bibles, prayer time etc.

BUT not everyone is built up spiritually, most people do not even know God.

When you look at a building what do you see? Walls, windows, door, a roof! For each section of the building you need different building materials. You need bricks, mortar, wood, glass, fittings, cables, flooring etc.

Now think of your life and what building materials were used to build on your life.

Imagine being a young boy and every day you come from school your father gives you a hiding, even though you did not do anything wrong, you were not allowed in the house except to bath and fetch your food, you had to stay in a room that was built onto the house. There was never any explanation for this and eventually you grew up and left home. What would this building material do to such a person? He

would never be able to trust anyone, he would not be able to love anyone, and his life was a mess. He struggled in life with every aspect of his life, work, marriage, his kids, how was he supposed to function with this kind of building material in his past. I met this man and his father was dying, they notified him and asked if he could come and see him to say goodbye. He did not want to go; he hated his dad for what he had done to him as a child and vowed never to go back to him. I told him that if he did not go and forgive his dad, God could not forgive him for his own wrongdoings. I told him also to ask his dad why he did this terrible thing to him as a child. He went and told his dad that he forgives him and he told me afterwards that it was amazing, he felt as if he was clean for the first time in his life, and his dad asked him for forgiveness, and then to his utter amazement, his dad said "I hit you every day because I felt that your sister had a demon, but because she was a girl I could not hit her, so I hit you" well it did not make sense but that is what happened. His father used these terrible building materials to build on his son and ruined his life, but thanks to God they both forgave and He could go on with the rest of his life, free from that terrible curse resting on his life, now he could allow God to build a new future for himself and his family.

How many times did you not hear of a father or mother abusing a child and just think what they were building into their futures. Often if you abused a child, that child would grow up and abuse their children.

Mothers and fathers must learn to use the right building materials to build on their families, to ensure that when they grow up they have the right materials to build on the next generation. If you take people that are in some religions, I could name several, that train up the people in believing what that church or organization believes in. I attended a church with a friend, and a man went to the front and started to lead us in worship, but there was no music. I was puzzled and asked my friend, but she did not know, so I very boldly walked up to the Pastor and asked, I was blown away when he told me that nowhere in the bible did they say that musical instruments were to be used in worship.

I did not know what to say as I was still new to being born-again, and was still studying the bible. But then someone gave me David as an example, he danced in front of the ark when he brought it back, shocking his wife as he had taken all his clothes off and was only in his underwear and put the ark in a tent, then he paid, musicians, and singers to play their instruments and sing twenty four hours, seven days a week. Miriam also played the tambourine and sang a song to the Lord. There are plenty of scriptures about praising the Lord with music. How did this church come to this conclusion and how did hundreds if not thousands of people believe them.

I met a man and his daughter at my gate, they were Jehovah witnesses, we shared scriptures and spoke about the Lord and he was quite happy until I mentioned hell, then he shouted "no such place" and ran off. Many churches lead their congregations into believing things that are not true, and generations are built up in that lie.

How about your parents telling you that you will never be good enough! You are no good and will never be successful in life. You believe them and land up using the wrong building materials or give up on the building because you believed them. Everything you try just comes crashing down, and eventually you become a bum and sleep on a bench in the park. In my generation our parents put building material aside for the boy for his future but the girl just had to finish school, get married and have children. Well my dad took out insurance for the brother to go to college but did not take one out for me, imagine if he had done that, I could have gone to college and had an awesome career, instead he found me a job as typist which

by the way I got a commendation on my matrix certificate for. I could have gone and studied for all sorts of stuff and would have qualified for an awesome job and earned lots of money, but people of that time did not see that girls had potential to achieve what they thought only boys qualified for.

I do not blame my dad; it was the culture of the day. As it turned out my brother did not make it to matrix and my dad cancelled the insurance, only to find out that he had been sold a life insurance and not one that would pay out when my brother needed it for college.

Some parents bring up their children in cults, introduce them into the occult, witchcraft, New-age teachings, or tell them there is no God. Some children try to get their own building materials and some even gain some success, but many are left with no hope for their future. The parents say "just do the best you can with what you have". Many grow up orphans, and have no parents to help them to build and grow up lost, just going through life as best as they can, others are born to rich parents and grow up with such arrogance believing that they must have only the best, and then something happens and their building crashes and they lose everything and they then have no idea how to build a new future.

Many people are molested and raped and their minds shatter. They have no way to find the right building materials and often these people land up by doing to others what had been done to them. A man is molested and mistreated by his mother and grows up hating woman and either raping them or killing them. You see how important it is that the right building material is used when you build up a child.

I will share what happened to me as a child and how it affected my life as I grew up. We were visiting relatives in another town, and the parents went to the shop, leaving all the cousins at home, I was not feeling up to going to the cricket field with the rest of the kids, and stayed at the house, I was about 5 or six years old at the time. I had on a pretty frilly dress and the oldest of the cousins stayed with me at the house. He told me that he wanted to play doctor, doctor a game we often played, where we bandaged an arm or leg etc. He told me to lie down at the bottom of the bed with my legs hanging down. Then he molested me, he did not rape me, or actually touch me, but he pulled down his pants and did something which I had no idea what, but thank God the children came back and he pulled down my dress and told me to keep quiet. I was nearly raped that day, I did try and tell my folks, in the car on the way home but I did not know how to tell them. I just told them I did not like the game that he tried to play with me. I do not know if they understood. I forgot about the incident and went on with my life, but I did notice that I hated wearing dresses and skirts, I felt comfortable in long pants and shorts. Many years later my aunt got married and my brother and I often visited them, my uncle often asked me to accompany him to the shop alone in the car, but somehow I did not feel comfortable and pulled my brother or my cousins into the car. One day he visited me when I was already married and invited me and my youngest son to come and drink a cold drink with him in town. I went but he had to go into a building for business and in the lift he suddenly touched my breast, I was shocked. Years later I realized that all those years he had tried to get me alone, but by the grace of God I had been spared. One day I asked the Lord that if there is anything in my life that I should deal with, He must please show me. A friend brought me a book to read, and as I started to read, a woman was being raped, immediately all these things were brought back to me. Now I understood that these two incidences in my life caused me to lose my femininity. That was why I hated wearing dresses. You see these two men in my lives used building materials to steal from me what God had intended for me to be a woman. By the way I have forgiven them, but I still have to live with the

consequences. But God is healing me. He is giving me new building materials to replace those that were wrongly built into my life.

Circumstances can cause you to use the wrong building materials, or people can destabilize your building by putting in the wrong materials. Decisions we make can also bring in the wrong materials, and we can derail the building plans. Greed can lead us into decisions that bring down our building, we can be successful but because we want more and more success we could lose it all by making the wrong decision or listening to the wrong advice.

I found that many people that I talk to are suffering from rejection. I heard once that a building process was stopped because the builder had been given the wrong building materials. If you build a building with inferior material it will eventually collapse. That is what happens to people who are rejected. They cannot build on their lives because they see themselves as not good enough. No matter how you try to tell them that they are amazing, they cannot see it and will reject your efforts to rebuild them. They cannot trust people and even trust themselves. And because they were rejected, the devil will see to it that no matter how hard they try they will not find what they are looking for; a stable life seems to be something they will never achieve. Most of these people land up by hating everyone in their life. Hate eats away at your heart and it becomes hard and love struggles to penetrate it. It actually changes your personality. What actually happened was that a curse was placed on your life. No matter what you try you keep going round in circles and every time you think you have found happiness, something happens to betray your trust, and love in that person. You start to think that everyone is against you even God. You struggle to receive love especially from God, because you start to blame Him for what happened to you. It takes time to gain the trust of such a person, and if you can allow them to see how much God loves them, it does help, but if you persevere you could help them to turn their lives around.

One day I visited the library and found a book that looked very interesting and took it home, The book was called “the Flock”. I was fascinated and did not really understand what the book was about but then I came across a teaching on the subject I was intrigued and wanted to know more. I returned to the library and asked if I could purchase the book, but they said that they could not find the book. Then I was asked to come and pray for a young man who had returned from the mental institution. The mother showed me drawings that he had drawn and they were dark and sinister. I asked her what was the problem with the young man and she told me that he gets in the car and he is her son, but when he gets out at the beach he is someone else. I met the young man and talked to him but he did not really want to talk to me. I left and got in my car and suddenly he came bouncing out smiling and put his arms on the window of the door and talked to me, I saw at once that his features had changed, even his voice was different. He was a multiple for sure. The subject fascinated me and I met another lady who had been kidnapped and raped and now had multiple personalities. I eventually located a second hand copy of the book and studied it up again. I now realized that trauma can affect the brain and shatter it into different personalities which they created to cope with the trauma they suffered.

Trauma can derail the building process; even grief can do the same. I have found however that sending people for counseling does not always produce the result they need to fix up the building that has come crashing down between their ears. I met a lady that was going for counseling and all they did was give her bags of medication. She paid this person a lot of money and all she ever got was a prescription and sometimes if she is lucky she will spend a few minutes telling them about her day. It is so sad that these

people spend a lot of money getting the doctorate or education to help these people and all they do is give them tablets to keep them calm and prevent them from jumping off tall buildings.

And where is the church that has the necessary building materials to help these people rebuild their lives? I sent that young man to a church that has a Psychiatrist on staff. A few days later I enquired if they were helping him and she said they sent him to the mental hospital. I rest my case.

A lady came to me for prayer, she had a problem and someone had sent her to me, I tried to find out how I could help her and she started to speak. She introduced herself then spoke in tongues then she said one sentence in English then spoke in tongues, this continued for a few minutes and I was none the wiser as to what her problem was. I told her to stop and just tell me in English so that I could understand. Her daughter said "you see mom I told you, no one can understand what you are saying" she told me that her Pastor had told her to do that. But she kept on speaking in tongues I told her that unfortunately I could not help her, and they left. I still cannot figure out why he had told her that. Maybe I should have told her to write it down. I am not a professional counselor although I did a course at bible school, but I have realized that God sometimes send these broken people to me. I asked him to help me to understand how to help these people and then He started me on this building project. First I had to study Nehemiah and Ezra and now He spoke to me about foundations. I think I have a much clearer view of the problems facing people and I really hope this book is going to help. The one thing that is clear is that if your life is collapsing around you, you have to go to a builder to help you before the whole thing collapses completely. The church has a master builder at their disposal and they just have to get the blueprint, and building materials which I believe is the Bible and teach people to trust Him to do the rebuilding.

People who have demonic evil foundations and building materials need deliverance, but that seems to be something sorely lacking in most churches today. A lady that visits me belongs to an awesome church and that man can preach. But when I asked her if she had ever cast out a demon, seeing that she has a street ministry, she said no, the church had a lady that was going to teach them but she was the only person who turned up for the lesson and then the lady died of cancer. The church and I am not mentioning the building, we are the church, is ill equipped to help the sheep. We lead them into a building and never teach them what they need to know or how to be free and how to operate in the Kingdom.

Examine your life and see what building materials were used in the building up of your life. Remember when the walls in Nehemiah was broken down and gates burnt, God supplied all the material he needed to rebuild those walls, maybe you should ask God for new material so you can rebuild your life.

The scripture God gave me was Ezra 5

5:2 Then rose up Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel [heir to the throne of Judah] and Jeshua son of Jozadak and began to build the house of God in Jerusalem; and with them were the prophets of God [Haggai and Zechariah], helping them.

5:3 Then Tattenai, governor on the west side of the [Euphrates] River, and Shethar-bozenai and their companions came to them and said, Who authorized you to build this house and to restore this wall?

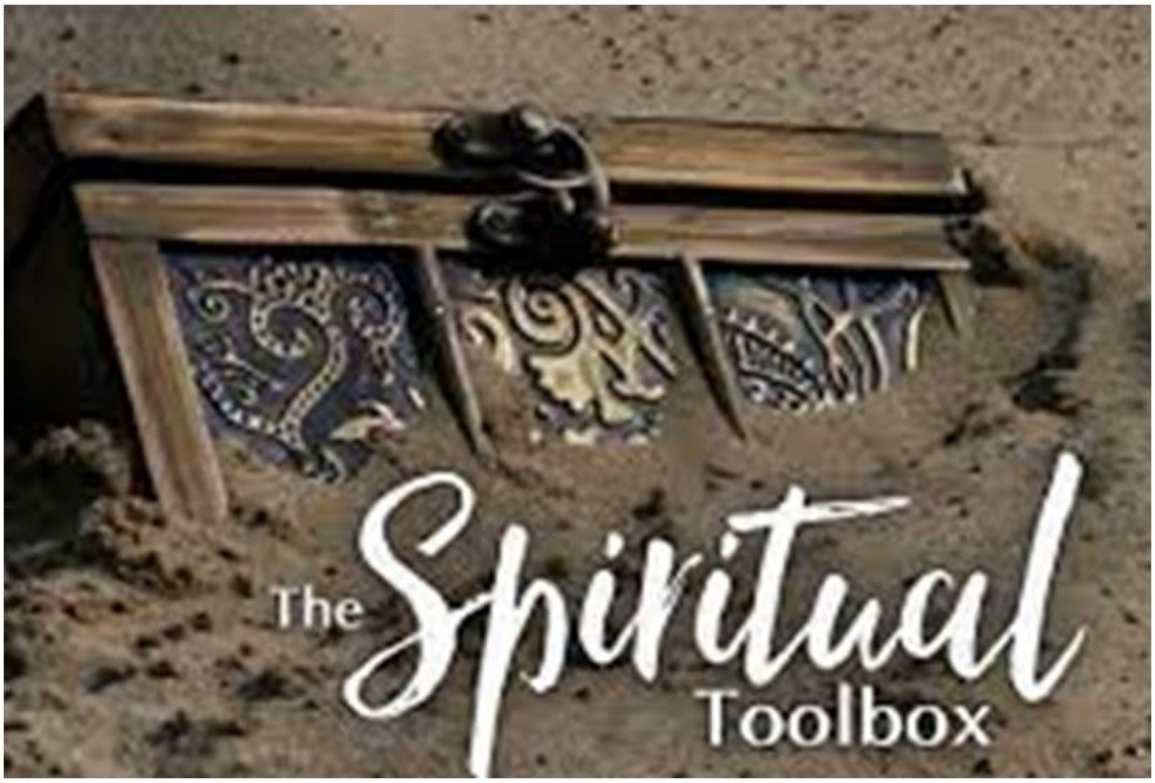
5:4 Then we told them [in reply] the names of the men who were building this building.

I did not understand why God was giving me this scripture about building up the temple. But years later I realized that God was telling me that my building had problems and He was going to rebuild it, and of course Satan was not happy and he would try to stop it, but God built and is still building on me and I thank Him that I am worthy to be rebuilt for His use. God's building material is the Bible and people who will help you understand how to rebuild.

Dedicate your building to God so that He has permission to start the rebuilding.

CHAPTER FIVE

TOOLS



One thing that I noticed in church was the lack of teaching on deliverance and spiritual warfare. I do not blame them because I know from experience that when you take on the devil, he fights back. I blame the lack of discernment that Christians do not seem to have. That is one gift that I am so grateful that the Holy Spirit gave me when I became born-again.

We need this spiritual took if we are going to help people to break free from bondages that the enemy has put on them. Most Christians do not know about spiritual warfare they usually say “leave it up to those who know how to do it"

Ten Essentials Tools for Spiritual Warfare

- Knife= sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God
- Cordage= fighting our best fights requires tying ourselves to God
- A hat= helmet of salvation
- Water= the living water of God
- Signaling equipment= prayer

Fight all your battles on your knees and you win every time. ~ Charles Stanley

- Compass= God's will and guidance
- Shelter= shelter of Christ
- First Aid kit= Bible. (The Bible helps with hurts, pains, and rejection).
- Clothing= God's armor.

When people are without food, water, comfort, and protection, their minds start to battle furiously within. They question their strength and resolve. Doubt and fear can easily enter in. Defeat becomes inevitable at this point.

The best tool we can carry with us is the Word of God

God doesn't want to find us in the spiritual wilderness 'naked and afraid,' but rather armed with His Word and fully clothed in His armour. What we need to realize is that we need to put on our armour because God won't put it on us. According to Ephesians 6:10-18 This apparel protects us against the devil's schemes and allows the faithful warrior to fight valiantly for God with the sword of the spirit.

Now just here we hit a problem, because people do not want to admit that the devil is behind their problems, but they often say it is God's fault. No one wants to admit that their problem is being caused by demons. I once went to a cell meeting at a church and noticed that one lady sat with her head bent downward. This started to bother me and one evening I told her to come and sit in a chair in front of me, I put my finger under her chin and lifted it up and told her to look at me, as she did that I could see something in her eyes. I asked the Holy Spirit what it was and He said "a demon of oppression" I commanded it to leave her in the name of Jesus. Her face lit up and she smiled and said "wow what was that, I felt it leave" after that she never sat with her face downward again. As the church it is our duty to help people to get free from demonic attacks.

We need a multi-faceted tool in our tool box – it is the Word of God. Just bringing the book with will not help we need to read and study it and prepare to battle with it.

I choose to use God's Word.

(2 Thessalonians 3:3, NLT). But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one.

What tools do you have in your tool box, without the necessary tools, we cannot put the building together. In the word of God there are many tools, that you can use, God tells you "build yourself up in the word". In other words all the tools you need to live a successful life is in the Bible.

Pastor Copeland says "if you need finances find scriptures that speak of finances, if you need faith go look up some faith scriptures, if you need health, the bible is full of scriptures about health." One day I was reading a book called "change me" I forget who wrote it, but when I was finished with the book, I closed it and said "Lord change me" and I heard "Ruth 3:11

And now, my daughter, fear not. I will do for you all you require, for all my people in the city know that you are a woman of strength (worth, bravery, capability).

Well I did not expect that, but you see whatever tool you need to build on your building is found in the bible.

The Lord spoke to me about the wrong tools, if you think of what some people go through, then those tools are used not to build them up but to break them down, torture them, hurt them, teach them to distrust people, bring such pain into their lives that it feels like you are taking a hammer and a nail and knocking it into their hearts.

At one church that I visited, the Pastor's daughter had three different kind of sicknesses, they would pray for her and she would be healed, but then a few months later the sicknesses would return, then they prayed again and she would be healed, this continued for several years. Then one day it all came back again, this was a born-again woman, who loved the Lord and worshipped Him, why this happened no one knew, but one day she had, had enough, after church she ran ahead of the family and took her father's gun and shot herself in the heart. Her father ran to her and led her to the Lord, telling her to ask for forgiveness. She died in his arms, telling him that the pain was just too much, she could not take it anymore. A few weeks later he was in prayer when the Lord showed him a vision of his daughter, dancing and worshipping in front of the throne. She was in heaven, because her father helped her to rectify what the enemy tried to do, if she had not asked for forgiveness and rededicated her life, the enemy would have won. We don't always understand why people do the things they do, her father was an anointed preacher and although she received healing she was attacked again and again, and the sickness returned. Maybe she had an open door. BUT for the grace of God that saved her.

Prayer is a powerful tool that many people do not know how to use. I was one of them, I never knew how to pray, until Kathryn, laid hands on me, and prayed for me, and God handed me a powerful tool. Prayer can be used to heal the sick, bring the dead to life, and most of all, allow you to have an intimate relationship with the Lord. Prayer had often prevented disasters from taking place, bring revival in an area. This is one tool that you should research and learn how to use.

Faith is another tool that every Christian should have, without faith your life will not work. With faith nothing will be impossible. You have to learn how to use this tool. It is a mighty tool that will have a great impact in your life, against the devil, who tries to convince you that you have no power. Study your bible so that you can wield this tool as a weapon and you will have victory in many areas of your life.

Wisdom is another tool that you have to ask the Lord to give you. If you are going to successfully serve the Lord, you need wisdom, to be able to make the right decisions. I asked for Wisdom and God sent me a wisdom angel, since then many people have said to me that I have

wisdom. Wisdom will help you in making the right decisions that stop the enemy from leading you down the wrong path.

Their are many tools, or weapons, like the armour of God, that you should acquire and learn to use. The building will not be able to stay together without the right tools, and your life will fall apart if your do not use God's tools, from His toolbox (the bible). Ask God for new tools, to make your life a success.

Check out the list of tools at the beginning of this chapter and go to the heavenly hardware shop and get them, they are free by the way. May God supply all the tools you need to put your building back together again!

CHAPTER SIX

TRUSTING GOD'S TIMING.

Understanding God's Timing

The first thing a person will ask you is "why does God not answer my prayer, what is taking so long, if God is so all powerful why am I still sitting in this mess?"

I also never understood why God sometimes does not answer us and move the situation immediately; I often told people "I think He has gone fishing". As humans we don't understand that God's time is not our time. God can see the future and He knows just when it is the right time to do something. If He had answered you when you asked Him, it may have been too early and something was not in place and you would have run ahead of him.

I heard of a family that was given a Prophetic word, and were told they would go to Australia, they immediately packed up and sold everything and moved to Australia. One day their daughter walked on the beach, she was kidnapped raped and murdered. When they enquired of the Lord, He told them that the time for them to be there was not yet, they ran ahead of God and the enemy attacked. If they had waited for the Lord to tell them WHEN to go their daughter would still be alive.

God is the only one that can save you out of your situation. Worldly advice will not work no matter what anyone tells you.

Jesus wept over Jerusalem, saying, "You did not recognize **the time** of your visitation" (Luke 19:44. A group of Israelites decided to try and possess the land of Canaan the day after God told them the opportunity had passed. They were routed by the Canaanites (see Numbers l4:39-45). Ecclesiastes tells us that God is a God of timing: "**There is an appointed time for everything**. And there is a time for every event under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1). We need to understand the timings and seasons God ordains for our lives, ministries, cities and nations. Too often we try to reap during planting season, plant during harvest, run when we should be resting and rest when it is time to run. Doing even the right thing at the wrong time, well intentioned as it may be, will

cause us to miss the train every time. The problem with most people going through tough times is that they want the solution today and are not willing to wait.

Discerning the Times

One of the tribes of Israel, the sons of lssachar, had an ability to discern timing: "men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do" (1 Chronicles 12:32). Notice that it was their ability to understand the times that gave them insight as to what to do. Understanding God's timing is often one of the keys to taking the proper action.

God wants us to understand and recognise the divine shifts in our lives, moments when God changes the times and seasons. Never again do we want to be sitting in the train station with our bags packed and ticket in hand, watching the train that was to carry us into God's purpose for your life disappearing into the distance.

Story:

One of the great disasters of history took place in 1271. Nicolo and Matteo Polo (the father and uncle of Marco) were visiting the Kublai Khan, at that time a world ruler over China, India and all of the East. He was attracted to the story of Christianity as Nicolo and Matteo told it to him and said this to them: "You shall go to your high priest and tell him on my behalf to send me 100 men skilled in your religion, and I shall be baptized. And when I am baptized, all my barons and great men will be baptized and their subjects will receive baptism, too. So, there will be more Christians here than there are in your parts."

However, nothing was done for about 30 years. Then two or three missionaries were sent too few – and too late. It baffles the imagination to think what a difference to the world it would have made if China had become fully Christian in the thirteenth century and the East had been given to Christ. These men missed the opportunity, and God's purpose was frustrated.

Could it be that God was trying to create an incredible shift that would have changed the course of history? We may never know, but it certainly sounds possible. It should be our belief and desire that nothing like that will happen in our generation.

God's Change into New Seasons

The following three verses in Isaiah speak of God's change into new seasons:

You have heard; look at all this. And you, will you not declare it? I proclaim to you new things from this time, even hidden things which you have not known **(Isaiah 48:6)**.

Behold, I will do something new, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, rivers in the desert **(Isaiah 43:19)**. God has often given me this verse to tell me to WAIT.

Behold, the former things have come to pass, now I declare new things; before they spring forth I proclaim them to you **(Isaiah 42:9)**.

First, notice the phrase "*spring forth*" in the last two verses. These words mark a shift in time. Something new is about to spring forth. "Will you not be aware of it?" He asks. Often, God waits until the last moment to move. But it is also true that when He does move, it can transpire quickly. Never give up. Your shift may be closer than you think.

From time to time, lobsters have to leave their shells in order to grow. They need the shell to protect them from being torn apart; yet when they grow, the old shell must be abandoned. If they did not abandon it, the old shell would soon become their prison and finally their coffin. The tricky part for the lobster is the brief period of time between when the old shell is discarded and the new one is formed. During that terribly vulnerable period, the transition must be scary to the lobster. Ocean currents gleefully cartwheel them from coral to kelp. Hungry schools of fish are ready to make them a part of their food chain. For a while at least, that old shell must look pretty good.

When God restores us, He also transforms us into the image of Christ. But in the situation we do not want to hear this, all we want is the pain to go away, the situation to change. We want out of the wilderness and into the promised land. But God not only wants to take us out of the situation He wants to renew our minds, He wants to bring us to a fresh new place. Sometimes He has to take us out of the place we are in, so that He can change the situation. Most probably we landed in that place because we did not consult Him, did you ask Him before you married that man, did you ask Him before you started that new Job, did you ask Him why you are in that place of chaos? No we decided to do those things; we did not consult Him, because we were never taught to rely on Him, to ask before we did things. We relied on human wisdom, and either did not move when we were supposed to move, or we ran ahead.

When I started to serve the Lord I did not realise that there would be times when He put me in the wilderness, to rest and to teach me and give me instructions for the next assignments. I ran around to friends, asking "please pray with me, God is not speaking" Well I found out that sometimes God does not speak, because it is not the right time. When I found out that this happens every time I had completed an assignment, I started enjoying my wilderness time. Of course some well meaning friend would come and give advice as to what I should be doing, and I realised that that was what those friends of Job had been doing, do not listen to those voices, when the right time comes, God will move you where He wants you to go.

When He is finished, we don't feel or look the same. We are, indeed, different and ready for a shift to new wine.

God wants to renew our minds in the sense that He radically transforms the way we think so that we can participate in the changes He brings and the new – thing He does.

Finally, notice the word "hidden" in Isaiah 48:6. Have you ever noticed that when God begins to

do something new, it is often something that was hidden? He often keeps it a secret right up to the last minute. God is changing the times and seasons. Be alert and flexible. Make sure your wineskin is new, ready for the new wine He is about to pour out. Get ready to shift!

You must remember that you probably landed yourself in the state you are in, by the decisions you made, now you are shouting at God to change the situation. God has given man self-will, meaning that we decide what we want to do and when we do it.

What Time do you Keep?

There are two different New Testament Greek words for time, ***chronos*** and ***kairos***. (The word *chronos* refers to the general process of time or chronological time. The word *kairos* refers to the right time, the opportune or strategic time, the now time.)

Often *chronos* and *kairos* different phases of the same process. Kairos, in many ways, is an extension or continuation of *chronos*. As the processes of God's plans unfold, *chronos* becomes *kairos*. The new is connected to the old and. in fact, is often the result of what happened in the old. Kairos, the opportune time, is literally born of chronos, the general time. When we're in a nonstrategic general season of life's daily routine, plodding along in the chronos time, God doesn't totally start over with a kairos season. His overall agenda does not change. He simply takes us through one phase of a process in which our perseverance and faithfulness have allowed Him to shift us into the next phase a strategic season. He changes the time and season, transforming *chronos* into *kairos*.

This should be a great encouragement to you. Perhaps you're in a *chronos* time where you don't feel like anything exciting is happening. This season of your life may even be tedious a time of ploughing, standing, believing and persistent praying. You must understand that all of that is part of a bigger picture. The *chronos* season, however frustrating, is not unimportant. If you press on, doing what is necessary in these general times, the process will shift into a kairos season of reaping. Galatians 6 says, "Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time (*kairos*) we shall reap if we do not grow weary."

When complimented on her homemade biscuits, the cook at a popular Christian conference replied, "Just consider what goes into the making of these biscuits. The flour itself doesn't taste good; neither does the baking powder nor the shortening nor the other ingredients. However, when I mix them all together and put them in the oven, they come out just right."

Much of life in the *chronos* season seems tasteless, even bad, but God is able to combine these ingredients of our lives in such a way that a shift occurs resulting in a banquet.

Life is a series of changes a process of going from the old to the new from ***chronos*** to ***kairos***. Growth, change, revival all are processes. Life is connected. Not understanding this, we tend to despise the chronos times of preparing, sowing, believing and persevering. Our preference is to

always live in the kairos times of fresh and strategic opportunities. It is important to realise, however, that our actions and attitudes in the ***chronos*** times are what determine whether or not God can shift us into the ***kairos*** times. It is in the ***chronos*** times that the necessary ingredients are added.

"Our actions and attitudes in the chronos times of preparing, sowing, believing and persevering are what determine whether God can shift us into the kairos times of fresh and strategic opportunities."

Often, as we continue working through difficult times, a mind-set comes to us that life will always be this way. We begin to believe that the *kairos* time is never going to come. If we're not careful, we lose our expectation and our faith begins to waver. We've prayed so long, ploughed so long, believed so long and held on for so long that we begin to live with a "so long" mentality. Disillusionment then sets in and our faith is gone. God wants to shift our thinking from becoming discouraged during these times to realising the necessity of *chronos* seasons. We're not losing or wasting time, we're investing it. And if we do so faithfully, the shift will come. Knowing that we are cooperating with God and giving Him what He needs to bring the new, we can rejoice over, rather than despise, small beginnings. We won't despair about prayer meetings that go on for several years with little apparent fruit. Our faith is based only on the truth of God's Word and obedience to it.

But it is imperative for us to be prepared to change when God says He's bringing the shift. We have to move with Him, or we will miss what He wants to do. If we don't understand the ways of God, we can become so confused and frustrated that we aren't able to reach out in faith and change. Like the first generation of Israelites that came out of Egypt, we end up in the wilderness and never reach the promise.

However, if we comprehend the ways of God, this will decrease the frustration during the waiting time. We can move into peace and rest, knowing that God is in control and we are walking with Him.

The Fullness of Time

When God shifts us from a general *chronos* time to an opportune *kairos* time, it doesn't mean that the process and the fight of faith are finished. It means we have shifted into a very strategic season where the opportunity is great, but we're not yet to full fruitfulness. There is still a persevering that needs to happen.

The Bible speaks not only of chronos and kairos, but also of a ***pleroo***, or fullness of time. Galatians 4:4 reads, "But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law." This word "*fullness*" indicates fully completing or finishing something. Whereas *kairos* indicates opportunity to perform a task or produce

fruit, *pleroo* means it has been accomplished.

This could be likened to the process of bringing forth children. After conception, a woman goes through all three stages of timing: ***chronos***, ***kairos*** and ***pleroma***.

For nine months, she faithfully endures the challenging but important developmental stage of *chronos*. Much is happening in the hidden place of the womb, but she cannot yet hold and fully enjoy the fruit she knows is coming. She then moves into the *kairos* stage of labour and delivery. She hasn't yet come to fullness, but it is near.

A *kairos* time can be difficult, critical and crucial, and opportunity doesn't guarantee success. Often, there will be much work, pain and pushing, if the fullness stage of birth is to be reached.

The Nature of Birthing Something New

Spiritual births are also difficult and dangerous. Unlike a woman in labour, however, we can give up during these strategic times and stop the delivery process. It is often a hazardous and precarious time; disillusionment, weariness, confusion and other problems can easily arise.

We can use the illustration of a beehive to compare the struggle of bees to that of the Christian:

A beekeeper told me the story of a hive how, when the little bee is in the first stage, it is put into a hexagonal cell, and honey enough is stored there for its use until it reaches maturity. The honey is sealed with a capsule of wax, and when the tiny bee has fed itself on the honey and exhausted the supply, the time has come for it to emerge into the open. But, oh, the wrestle, the tussle, the straining to get through that wax! It is the strait gate for the bee, so strait that in the agony of exit the bee rubs off the membrane that hid its wings, and on the other side it is able to fly!

Without any strain or trouble, they would not be able to fly. Are you struggling to get to the next stage? Don't give up. Your struggles won't be wasted; they may even be necessary. The key is not to quit.

Consider the disciples of Christ. They went through three intense years with Jesus. Then came *kairos* the **Cross**, the **Resurrection**, the **Ascension** and **Pentecost**. They were very close to their fullness of time. But like many of us, they came extremely close to losing the "baby" in this transition between *kairos* and *pleroo*.

At one crucial point, they were confused because they didn't understand what was happening. God was truly moving behind the scenes, but things were not unfolding the way the disciples had envisioned. In their confusion, they came to a point of frustration where they basically looked at one another and said, "What are we going to do?"

For three years, Jesus had been there; then they watched Him die. He was raised from the dead and they were excited, but He left again and something about it seemed permanent this time. He was gone. He had talked about the Holy Spirit coming, but that didn't make much sense. It would have seemed more logical if Jesus had lust stayed.

Peter spoke up first (can you believe that?) and said, “I am going fishing” (John 21:3). He was essentially saying, “l am going back to what I was doing three years ago. I’m returning to the only thing I know and understand. The dream is over. I don’t know where God is going, but I’m going back to my business. I’m going fishing.” So many people do this in life.

He and the others had come through the *chronos* season and had shifted into the *kairos* strategic time. Just before fullness, they came extremely close to losing the “baby.” Only a few days later, Pentecost occurred, and we see what they almost lost. Through Peter’s first sermon as a born-again believer filled with the Spirit of God, 3,000 people came to Christ. As a group, the disciples then proceeded to turn their world upside down (see Acts 17:6 KJV). Fullness had come.

Be Ready When the Divine Shift Comes

At the Pool of Bethesda. Jesus came to the man who had been in his paralyzed condition for 36 years and asked him what seemed to be a strange question: “Do you want to get well?” (John 5:6, NIV). The man’s answer revealed that although he was waiting at the pool, he really had no hope of being healed. He was in a *kairos* moment, close to fullness, but hopelessness had set in.

“We must not become so accustomed to working hard and seeing little fruit that, when the time for the divine shift comes, we don’t have the faith to move into the new.”

Jesus asked him this question to make him realise that, although he was waiting for the miraculous stirring in the pool, he had lost all hope of actually being healed. Only seconds away from experiencing the new, just a handclasp away from total restoration, the man was too disillusioned to recognise it. Somewhere along the way, as he went through the processes of time, he lost his expectation. There wasn’t anything within him that could respond in hope to Jesus’ question.

When God brings a shift, we must be ready to shift with Him. If we’re not careful, we won’t believe that He can bring us from the chronos stages through the kairos seasons and into fullness. We must not become so accustomed to working hard and seeing little fruit that, when the time for the shift comes, we don’t have the faith to move into the new.

God wants to bring the divine shift to our lives, our churches, our communities and our nation. When He says it’s time to shift, we must take His hand and shift with Him, knowing He can and is willing to do it.

Keys to Unlocking the Shift

In this section of our study, we will look at nine keys from the first chapter of Joshua.

That will help us successfully make the divine shift with God from ***chronos*** to ***kairos*** and on to ***fullness***. The Israelites were about to go through one of the greatest shifts in history. If we can remember the strategies God gave them, during our own transition times, that knowledge will

greatly assist us in our pursuit of fullness.

Key *#1* **We Must Accept Responsibility to Do Our Part**

God will do what only He can do; we must also do what He expects and requires of us during the time of transition. Don't make the mistake of overemphasizing the sovereignty of God. In other words, it is dangerous to believe that God will make sure we get to fullness, no matter what we do. The generation of Israelites who perished in the wilderness is proof that fullness is not automatically guaranteed.

Chapter 1 of Joshua marks the transition of Israel moving into their *kairos* season. Ultimately, if they followed the Lord completely, they would move on into fullness. Joshua 1:2 states: "Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel."

In saying this, God was doing more than just telling Joshua that Moses was dead. Yes, Moses had gone away by himself, and God took him on to heaven without anyone being around to witness it. But God was also announcing to Joshua, "It's your time now. You can no longer look to the man who mentored you and made the decisions for the nation. You have been trained and equipped; now you are the one, Joshua. It's your turn. Accept the responsibility! You must rise up to your place of leadership and lead this people."

The fact that we have responsibilities in this process is also implied by the use of the word "giving" in the above verse. It is translated from the Hebrew word ***nathan***, which means more than to give (in the sense of bestowing something upon another). Nathan means to give in the sense of an assignment. God's gifts are also His assignments. He is going to gift us with the fruitful stage. He will bring us into fullness. Though His gifts are coming, they are also assignments. There will be a part for us to play.

When God "gave" the land to Abraham and his descendants, He was saying more than, "I am giving you the land." He was also saying, "I am 'assigning' this land to you." They would have to go in and possess it, fulfilling the assignment of the Lord, in order for God to do through them what He wanted to do.

The same will be true for us. We will have to be faithful to do our part in the transition time, fulfilling the assignments of the Lord. We must act responsibly, walking in truth and wisdom. If we do, we'll reach fullness.

Key *#2*: **We Will Have to Move in Great Faith**

During the Transition Times This is especially true as we approach fullness. Sometimes more faith is required to move into this stage than was needed in the *chronos* season.

In Joshua 1:2 God said to Joshua, "Cross this Jordan," He was making the important distinction that it was not the Jordan of several months earlier or of a few months later. but this one that was

in flood stage (see Joshua 3:15). It was probably a mile wide and very deep and, as far as these Israelites were concerned, impassable.

But God told Joshua that he was going to take these people men, women, children, animals, possessions across this Jordan. What an incredible faith it took to receive this word from the Lord! We, too, will face impossible situations and insurmountable odds at times when we are moving in the kairos stage toward fullness. It will require much faith. We will have to believe that God is going to come through and do His part – the impossible – in order to get us to where we need to be.

The seasons of maintaining do require patience but may not necessitate a great amount of faith. But when God says it's time to move forward, there will be steps of faith required on our part. We must be ready to move in faith.

Key *#3:* **We Must Be Very Flexible**

Joshua 1:11 states: "Pass through the midst of the camp and command the people, saying, 'Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you are to cross this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you, to possess it". After the Israelites had waited 40 years in the wilderness for the promise of God to be fulfilled, you would think He could have given them more than three days notice to pack up all their possessions and prepare to move on.

Anyone who has ever moved knows how difficult it is to pack and uproot. But God said, "In three days, you are to cross." The shifts of God can come suddenly. He has reasons for doing this. Sometimes He doesn't want us to have a lot of time to think about it, because we would probably mess things up somehow. He wants us to move quickly.

Unexpected events will also require flexibility. I can assure you that when the transition begins, especially when we are walking through *kairos* the strategic, opportune stage there will be unexpected opportunities and challenges. God will do things in ways we really didn't anticipate. We have probably envisioned how things should happen. God will most likely do it differently, however, and we must be very flexible.

Key *#4*: **We Must Remember the Basics**

When Joshua was about to lead this generation of Israelites into their fullness, God put great emphasis on His Word. Joshua 1:7-8 states: Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

God was bringing to Joshua's attention the vital importance of His Word. "Don't neglect the Word, Joshua. Keep it before you. Keep speaking it. Keep meditating on it. Then you will be successful." When we are going through difficult times and transition is certainly that it is not the great, deep revelations of truth that keep us. It isn't our eschatology. It isn't our ability to exegete the Scriptures. It is the basics that keep us during times of transition. Remember to focus on the Word. Remember to spend time with the Lord. Remember to fellowship regularly with other believers. Keep yourself in prayer. Do the basics!

Key *#5:* **We Need to Hold Fast to Past Promises**

Joshua 1:6 states: "Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore (promised) to their fathers to give them". God called Joshua back to the promise He had made to Abraham and other forefathers. When we go through times of transition, it is imperative that we remember what God has spoken to us in the past. This will give us comfort, direction and something to which we can anchor.

Paul told Timothy to wage a good warfare through the prophecies that had been spoken over him (see 1 Timothy 1:18). In other words, during the difficult time Timothy was experiencing, Paul told him to go back and recall what had been spoken over him and to use those words as a weapon with which to fight. He was challenged to let the past affirmations sustain his faith.

"When God takes us to new levels or begins to shift us to levels of favour or success, we are often very short-sighted about it. We think it is simply to bless and reward our faithfulness, when in reality it is often because of, and to bless, others and generations to come.

This also served to bring Joshua an important perspective: What was about to happen wasn't only about them, but it was also about Abraham and others before them, it was about generations to come. When God takes us to new levels or begins to shift us to levels of favour or success, we are often very short-sighted about it. We think it is simply to bless us or reward our faithfulness, when in reality it is often because of, and to bless, others. In Joshua's day God wasn't only rewarding this generation of Israel, He was furthering the redemptive purposes of history. Remember that others will be impacted by your successful shifting.

Key *#6*: **We Must Live in Complete Obedience**

This sounds so obvious that it seems I wouldn't need to mention it. After all, don't we always have to obey Him? Yes. But God greatly emphasises obedience in this transition chapter. The word "command" is used eight times in the first chapter of Joshua.

God commanded Joshua; Joshua commanded the leaders; the leaders commanded the people and God made reference to what He had previously commanded. The phrase "be careful to do" is used twice, as is the word "obey" or "obeyed." All together, the concept of obedience is seen 12 times in these verses.

During transition times, it is absolutely imperative that we obey the Lord and do it quickly. He knows how things must be done. We may not understand the importance of doing things His way, but He does, and it is essential that we do it His way.

Key *#7*: **We Need to Realise There Will Be Battles We Have to Fight**

The fact that we've moved out of *chronos* into *kairos*, and perhaps even close to fullness as with a mother who is delivering a baby doesn't mean the struggle is finished. Victory may be very, very close, but often that is when the battle becomes the most intense.

God told Joshua: "Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses" (Joshua 1:3). The word "tread" is translated from the Hebrew word ***darak***. This word not only means to walk on, but it is even a stronger term that means a warrior's march or tread. A warfare term, it is the word used for "bending the bow" when about to shoot an arrow.

This Hebrew word is still used today in Israel for the command, "Load your weapons." God wasn't telling Israel that everywhere they walked or stepped was theirs. He had already marked off the perimeters of the inheritance. He was saying symbolically, "Every place that you are willing to load your weapons and take, I'm going to give to you." God was telling Joshua that there would be a battle.

Destiny is always contested and we must know that the evil one will try to rob our destinies from us. He will try to steal from the Church the harvest that God wants to bring in this hour. He will try to keep us from experiencing the breakthroughs God wants us to have and for which we have been fighting or believing, in the areas of our family relationships, our health, our churches. The enemy will not give up easily. We are guaranteed success, however, if we fight the good fight of faith. But we will have to fight.

Key *#8*: **We Must Recognize Our Need for Help**

In verses 12-18 of Joshua 1, God mentions the tribes of Reuben, Gad and Manasseh, which had been given an inheritance on the east side of the Jordan. When given this inheritance, they had been told by Moses that they would still need to go and help their brothers take their inheritance. Joshua reminds them of that.

We are to see in this example the need to fight together to stand together. It is important when we walk through difficult times and transitions to acknowledge our need for help. We need to humble ourselves and ask for prayer, counsel or encouragement. Don't hesitate to seek help; it is proper to do so.

Key *#9*: **We Must Let His Peace Sustain Us**

Joshua 1:9 states: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go," The word "dismayed" comes

from the Hebrew word ***chathath***, which means to crack or break.

God was saying to Joshua, "This transition into your *kairos* stage and toward fullness will be stressful. There will be unexpected challenges, difficulties and warfare. While under the pressure of leading, Joshua, you are going to have to make sure you walk in peace. Don't crack under the stress."

Notice the word "let" in Colossians 3:15: "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful." We must allow the peace of God to rule. **We have a choice**. We can stress out by focusing on the problems and neglecting the basics, or we can take the time to quiet ourselves before the Lord and keep our faith strong.

As we move forward into God-given destinies, it is reassuring to know that God has already been there. Every *chronos*, *kairos* and *fullness* season He has seen before. The "new" and "hidden" places are only new and hidden to us. God understands full well how to open the doors of breakthrough, victory and fruitfulness because He, the incarnated God, has been here before.

"I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name" (Revelation 3:8).

Reflection

What are your responsibilities before God to your family, friends, colleagues and country? How can you encourage those who have waited for months or years for something from God?

Which people, places and events serve to give your faith solace, strength and continuity? Why is it important to have such things during the various seasons of life?

What are specific steps you can begin taking right now to further your pursuit of God and His fullness?

Define God's peace in your life. Why is it important to have such peace as you transition through different stages in life?

Are you ready for the divine shift?

CHAPTER NINE

GODS PLAN MANS WILL

GOD'S PLAN AND MAN'S WILL!

As I was contemplating on what went wrong in the lives of family and friends, I realized that it was mostly decisions that led them into the mess that their lives became. However, there were other factors, such as the soil they had been planted in, the foundation that was laid in their lives, the building materials that life handed to them, or maybe we can say, that God handed to them, or the enemy handed to them.

It was not your choice to be born with a disease that landed you in a wheelchair, you had no control over that, it was not your choice to be raped or molested as a child. Some parents lead their children into drugs, alcohol etc. What your parents did to you shaped how you saw the world. If you come out of abuse, it will most likely cause you to abuse your children. But that is not God's plan, and the sad thing is that because you did not receive help or guidance you just kept on going until your whole life crashed around you.

If only we had those blueprints, but if you did not grow up in a church where the truth of the Bible is preached you never meet God. You never learn of His plans for your life. Even if you did go to Sunday school and learn about Him, you never learn to have a relationship with Him. What if you grew up in a house where you have several hundred gods? Or you land up in a New Age group where you can channel

an angel and believe those pretty pink rocks can protect your property. Or you are dedicated to Satan as a child and grow up in witchcraft or you are brought up a cult. I have met some people who were in these religions and cults and they keep on seeking, they call it enlightenment. But they are really searching for something they never seem to find. Many times we blame all these things that we say shaped our lives, our parents abandoned us, or led lives that we try to avoid and land up just like them; it is as if you cannot escape it.

Many people land up demon possessed because of decisions they made, by watching certain movies, playing certain games, attending séances, playing with an Outjie boards, joining a satanic cult. These are decisions they made and do not even realize that they just gave Satan permission to rule and reign in their lives. He often promises to give them wealth and power but what they do not realize is that one day he will come to collect their souls. In Africa it is a great privilege to become a witchdoctor or Sangoma, they believe that they receive great power and make a lot of money out of selling stuff that they believe will bless them, make them rich etc. They also believe that they have authority over demons, not realizing that they have just become a channel for demons to operate in and through them. Yes they do have power and even conjure up a demon called a "Tokoloshi" which is a little man that can be sent to people to harass them even steal money out of their houses. Most Europeans do not believe that they have power, and they use this ignorance to harass them without their knowledge, they even gain power over lightning using it to kill their enemies. This is a huge problem in most of the African continent, the parents allow their children to be indoctrinated in the culture and then wonder why most of the countries have wars, famine etc. It is because they do not allow God to build them up into a nation that serves Him. The devil rules and ruins these countries. No matter how many times people go to help them, they repeat and repeat the building pattern that leads them into poverty.

God's plans for us was to fulfill what He had planned for us before He put us in the womb, but as I stated there are many things that could prevent us from ever achieving them. So why try? Adam gave the world to Satan and he rules, even though we blame God for doing all this evil. Many times it could have turned out differently and it was only because we made the wrong **decisions.** No one told your father to hit you because his father hit him, it was his decision, and maybe he just thought it was what you were supposed to do. No one told you to go and rape woman because you hated your mother, you decided to do that. Friends may influence you to go and rob the bank with them, but it was your decision to go ahead and do the deed. Sometimes circumstances lead you into doing things because you think that is the only way to solve the problem. We live in a fallen world, and if you look around you and see all the things that are being done around you, child trafficking, drugs, woman abducted and sold as prostitutes. The rise in crime, everywhere, whole countries being held hostage by drug lords, or terrorists. It is no wonder that the youth even begin to question whether they are a boy or girl. Then you get the whackos who marry a tree, or their dog. God did not lead them to this, they decided to do it.

I remember a lady in our town just an ordinary woman, suddenly started to wear men's clothing we were isolated from the world, no WWW or internet or cell phones, we did not know what being gay meant, we thought you were just happy. We were shocked when we heard she was going to have a sex change. How was that even possible, we had no idea and today many woman and men have sex changes, but now we hear that they have mental problems, you see God never intended for you to be anything but what He created you to be? Divorce, depression, rejection, fornication, adultery, the lists go on and on. How are we supposed to survive in this world that is so lost? Was this what God intended for us when He made us,

no! But how do we get out of it, how do we restore our marriage, or our lives when we feel trapped, and no end in sight? Some people try to run from their problems, just get divorced that will make things better, but it never does, running away never solved anything. You are probably going to remarry and then a few years down the line the same problem prevents itself, and you just cannot believe that you did it again. You thought that you were marrying your prince and he turned out to be the devil in disguise.

A lady married a very nice gentleman and as time went on he turned into an alcoholic, she stuck around and did the best she could for her family, then he died, she later met another gentleman, at a church, and thought at last she had found her prince, only to find a few months later that he was secretly drinking in the garage. He alienated her from her children; she even had to go down the road to a telephone booth to phone her children. You see the same problem presented itself again.

Most people will tell you their problems and then say BUT God is in control, so one day I said "If God was in control of the earth we would be living in paradise." It is something you learn to say at church, no matter what your problem, God is in control. But if you have not given your life totally to Him and allow Him to make the decisions in your life, then you are in control.

Pride and arrogance do not allow you to give control to anyone but yourself over your life. I think that they think they are better than God and probably do not believe that Satan exists and most probably do not believe that God exists. Satan will blind people to believe in themselves instead of God, because then he can manipulate them into following his plans.

Hatred is something that acts like poison in your system. It can lead you to do terrible things and you feel nothing, no remorse, no love, and it brings un-forgiveness, which is like poison that eats away at your mind.

In Psalm 32, David describes how he felt before confessing his sin to God: "For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer" (Ps. 32:3–4).

My bones wasted away, it was some kind of disease that came upon him, un-forgiveness can cause sickness, and un-forgiveness can land you in hell. "But you say, how can I forgive, you do not know what they did to me" Imagine being a wife and you leave your purse behind and return to the house only to find your husband raping your daughter and then you find out that he had been raping all three your daughters their whole lives. How to do forgive, that, and just think what an act such as that will do to the three young girls, then they wonder why some girls land up in the streets as prostitutes, they did not choose that, but felt defiled and felt that no good man would want to marry them. We do live in a very sick world.

After I remembered that I had been molested I was told that I had to forgive, it was very hard, he had stolen my femininity, I hated dresses and make up, even jewelry, I felt that I was ugly and never looked at myself in a mirror. How could I forgive him? One day I visited a friend and she cut my hair, and I did not know that she was praying over me. The next day I was cleaning the bath and I looked up and saw myself in the mirror, I was shocked, it was the first time I really looked at myself, and I did not see a ugly face, I saw I was normal, for my age, and wondered what had happened, God had set me free, but I still had to forgive. Then I watched a video of a Pastor that had a fight with his wife and he died and God told him to take notes of everything he saw in heaven and then an angel took him to hell and he said that they

deserved to be there, and was shocked when the angel said "You also belong there, you have not forgiven your wife, and God cannot forgive you if you do not forgive her." That shocked me, if I did not forgive, then God cannot forgive me for my sins. At first it was hard, the devil kept on bringing up the incident and I felt that I could not forgive, but then I tried and over and over I said "I forgive you" I did not say it to him as I had lost contact with him and did not know where he was, but I kept on saying it, and after a while I realized that those feelings of hurt were no longer in my mind, it just became easier as time went on, and I could go on, I even started wearing skirts, and bought some dresses, I know that God is restoring me and healing me.

You see it is a choice, I can decide to hang onto it, or release it to God.

Offence is another thing that the Lord taught me about. I was in a group and we were praying and a lady started to cry, I thought she needed prayer but she told me she would speak to me later. Then she told me that she saw the ladies in the group stabbing me in the back. I was highly offended; I cried out to God, "What have I done to them, why are they doing this to me? I felt like a tire of a car that was worn out and thrown on the ash heap. My heart was breaking. Then the Lord reminded me of a lesson I had read, I went and found it and was shocked. The writer said that in Africa they hunted monkeys by putting an apple in a cage with a small hole. The monkey would reach in and grab the apple, but now he could not pull out his hand. You see that is what happens when you pick up offence; it is a bait of Satan. Now he has hold of you and you carry that offence around with you and you cannot forgive. You have to let go of that apple or you are trapped. I told God I did not know what to do. He told me that He wanted me to leave the group as He had other work for me, but I should go back to them in love. I did that and it was very difficult but God cured me that day of the sin of offence, now no matter what people do or say to me, I refuse to pick up that offence, and people do not understand but mostly I walk away so that they cannot offend me again. It is wonderful to be able to live in freedom from this bait of Satan.

You see God has given you free will. You have to choose it and walk in it. Sometimes it takes a few years to work through the hurts but if you will let Him, He can heal the wounds and make you whole.

Most of the time the thing you have to discover is what made your life the mess it is in, once you have discovered what the causes are you can start the repair work. That is what most counselors do; they identify what the problem is and then help you to find the solution. Sometimes you blame others for what is wrong in your life, but very often you discover that you also have faults and have made wrong decisions. Counselors will help you identify what is wrong in your foundation, if the soil you were planted in was good or bad, what building material was used in your life to shape you in what you have become. Keep in mind that God gave you a will of your own, and many times it was a wrong decision that brought all those problems into your life.

I decided to that I wanted to serve God and handed over my life to Him, and now before I make a decision I ask Him if it is the right thing to do. No matter what people tell me, do this or that, or some will come and give you a prophesy, but I first go and check with God before I decide something. Someone came and gave me a suggestion for this book. I told her that it was a good point but God already gave me everything I had to write about. You see I only do what God tells me, that way I do not give the devil permission to mess with my life. My husband's family wanted us to come overseas to visit. I felt that it was not the right time, but no one wanted to listen to me, I wanted to go but all along felt that it was not what God wanted for me, I told Him that it was ok to close the door and He did.

If something bad happened to you and your life is in a mess there is a way to get out of it. It may take a while, depending on what God needs to fix. You may need counseling to understand what and why it happened to you, you may have to deal with a broken heart, grief, hurts that feel like open sores, but the God that can turn water into wine, still the storm, walk on water, heal the sick, give a man a new eyes, heal the leper, raise a child after she had died for a few minutes, then raise a young man who had been dead for a few hours, or raise a man who had been dead for four days, He can solve your problem if you will let Him. Jesus took all our sins on the cross, and then He told the disciples. “All authority is given to me” He even defeated death in hell. He can heal you, and He has given you His authority on the earth, you can defeat the devil, just remember that we do not fight the person that hurt you, but the demons that made them do the things they did.

CHAPTER TEN

CROSSROADS

We now come to the final stage in the building process. As we look back to the beginning and see the mansion that God had planned for our lives. We must realize that a lot of building had to take place. Many things had to be planned, and placed in the right place, the right building materials had to be used. If any problems came up they had to be solved. Sometimes decisions had to be made by the master builder, if he deviated from the blueprint there would be problems that had to be sorted out. If inferior

material was used the building would not withstand severe weather. If the house was built in the wrong place storms could come and destroy it, if the owner and the builder did not agree on something the building process would stop and maybe not be completed. If you were building and robbers came in the night and stole building material, you would have to go back and get new building supplies. You see the devil comes to steal,

John 10:10,Luke 22:31,1 Peter 5:8 NIV -

The thief **comes** only to **steal** and **kill** and **destroy**; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Unfortunately because we have free will, we very often make the wrong decisions and our foundations and soil is not what God intended for us, we land up with a shack instead of a mansion.

God commissioned this book because I feel that so many people are lost and living in broken down lives and they need to be brought to the cross road, where they can decide to get help, get their lives restored and live in peace and love.

They have to decide to walk in the Narrow way or the Broad way, it is their decision they have free will, and we cannot force them to change their ways. We can only hand them the right building material that will help them to complete their building according to the blueprint that God had for their lives.

In the garden Adam could look straight into the eyes of God, He stood before Him and spoke to Him, and His Glory clothed Adam, God came to the garden and said "Adam, where are you?" Adam was hiding as he was now naked. God had to kill an animal to clothe them. Then He chased them out of the garden, and everything fell apart, they no longer could just command a tree to produce fruit, they had to till the ground and plant, they had given their birthright to Satan.

The first thing people will tell you is that you are too spiritual, why does everything have to revolve about God, why does God have to build, why can't you decide what you want to do with your life. Why must everything be about the Bible? And they will throw all these questions at you, because you must realize that most people do not have a relationship with God, if they did, their lives would have been so different, but they cannot see it, until they meet God and He changes their lives.

I know that Christians are seen as bashing you over the head with religion, with God, with the Bible, and what they believe in. In most cases when you meet someone whose life is in chaos you start off by just listening to them, let them talk, and blow off steam, allow them to shout at you, you may even have to talk them off the ledge a few times. But you have to slowly bring them to the point where you have them at the cross roads. You must never let go of the rope, you are their only anchor. I know you will get frustrated, and your heart sinks into your boots when they call you and you say "not again," Can you imagine your heavenly Father sitting on the throne and saying "just let them go it's their decision"

The main thing is to bring them to that crossroad as the only thing that can solve their problem is God. Even if you do not believe He exists, He is there, and the only other one that influences humans is the devil. Who would you choose?

You have to get the help to heal the wounds that life has caused. The grief, the hurt, the hatred, all these things can be healed, but it takes time, and that is not easy to explain, people want instant results. God has

to basically tear down their building, take them back to the soil, then heal the soil, build a new foundation and give them new building materials and the tools they need. Only then can they rebuild their lives. They have to get rid of anger, rejection, hurt, un-forgiveness and many more. They have to make a decision to allow God to heal them. Most people are rejected by those that can help them because they think that the problems are too big for them to handle, or they do not have the time to spend listening to those problems, over and over.

You can refer them to the professional, who will charge them lots of money and give them medication to calm them, but the only person who can really help them is God.

The first thing you have to establish is where is the problem is coming from, follow the steps, soil, foundation, building materials, then let them understand that some of the problems are because they exercised their free will, they chose the path they are on. Then you have to get them to the crossroads, and lead them to God and trust Him to show them how to get free. You can take a drug addict to meetings, but it is their free will that will make them decide not to take drugs again. Some may need professional help in some areas, but if you are willing to help them rebuild, God will guide you and together help you to build up the church, as God desires of us.

Just remember that God had a blueprint for your life, I found mine and have chosen to follow that path and it is quite a ride, God is still building on me, but I am confident that when He is finished with me I can proudly say, I ran the race and finished what God intended for my life. I hope to hear those words "Good and faithful servant".

I hope you will pass on this book to those who need to hear what the Spirit is saying, who needs to know that no matter what. Jesus is there right beside you, no matter what you are going through.

May God bless you and keep you, may His face shine upon you and give you rest.

If you have never received Him as your savior this is good time to do that so that He can guide you on the right path. Remember that Jesus gave His life for your sins; do not let the devil deceive you, God never intended for you to go through life, broken. He is the master builder. By the way did you notice that we never discussed the roof!

When I had written everything that God gave me about the building I realized that He did not mention the roof, so I asked, and He told me that our building does not have a roof, because the Glory of God has to come down on us and if we have a closed roof He cannot shine His glory into us. Now that is amazing!

COMPLETION

We started off with the blueprint and we are going to end with the blueprint because we have been dealing with what happened between the beginnings of your life up to now. It is here that we have to sort out the building process to produce the mansion that God intended you to be. Let us look at some scriptures:

Ephesians 2; 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before that we would walk in them.

Psalm 139:16 your eyes saw my body. In Your book they were all written, the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there were none of them.

We begin to unravel the mysteries of our future filled with great promise and living in a place of significance.

What Is Destiny?

Destiny can be defined as the preordained path or course of events established by God for an individual's life. It encompasses the purpose, mission, and assignments that God has uniquely designed for each person. God also divinely empowers us with His anointing to fulfill that plan. Destiny is not merely about the final destination but involves the journey of fulfilling God's divine plan through our daily lives and choices.

Ephesians 2:10 states, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." This verse serves as a cornerstone in understanding our divine purpose.

The term "workmanship" is translated from the Greek word *poiéma* (Strong's 4161), which signifies a masterpiece or a work of art. This powerful imagery reveals that each of us is a unique creation, intricately designed by God. **We are not random beings wandering through life aimlessly; rather, we are His masterpiece, crafted with intention and precision.**

The good works mentioned in this verse were prepared beforehand by God. This implies that our lives are not meant to be a series of random events but are orchestrated with divine purpose. These works are not merely tasks to be completed but are integral to our identity and calling. Walking in these good works is our act of aligning with the divine blueprint set before us.

The Scrolls of Our Lives

Psalm 139:16 provides further insight into this divine narrative: "Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them." This verse speaks of a heavenly book or scroll in which the days of our lives are recorded even before we come into existence. This book contains the details of our destiny, the divine assignments, and the unique contributions we are to make in this world.

The phrase "Your eyes saw my substance" emphasizes God's intimate knowledge of our being, even before we were formed. **This pre-creation knowledge of our DNA is not passive but active, involving the crafting and recording of our lives in His book.** Every moment, every decision, every path we take is known and accounted for in this divine scroll. Living out God's plan from His book is likely the place of living in the greatest sense of significance.

How Does Free Will Intersect Divine Destiny?

One might wonder how free will intersects with this concept of a preordained destiny. The divine narrative does not negate our freedom to choose; rather, it harmonizes with it. Our choices, whether aligned with God's plan or divergent from it, are known by Him and are woven into the tapestry of our lives.

God's foreknowledge does not mean it is going to happen no matter what. Instead, it highlights His omniscience and sovereignty. He knows the paths we will take, the decisions we will make, and the good works we are capable of performing. **Our destiny scrolls are a reflection of His perfect will, yet they accommodate our free will, allowing us to choose to walk in alignment with His purpose or to stray from it.**

Furthermore, Scripture calls us to co-labor with Christ in fulfilling our destiny. John 15:5 states, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing." This relationship with Christ emphasizes our partnership with Him in bringing forth the good works prepared for us. **We are not passive recipients of our destiny but active participants, working in tandem with the Holy Spirit to accomplish God's plans.**

Discovering Your Destiny

Understanding that there is a divine scroll concerning our lives invites us to seek and discover this God-given purpose. Here are steps to help you align with your destiny scroll:

1. Seek Intimacy with God. Developing a close relationship with God through prayer, worship, and studying His Word allows you to hear His voice and understand His will for your life.

"But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." (Matthew 6:33)

"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you..." (James 4:8)

2. Recognize Your Unique Design. Embrace the fact that you are God's masterpiece, uniquely crafted with specific gifts, talents, and passions. These are indicators of the good works He has prepared for you.

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29:11)

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10)

3. Align with Scripture. Regularly immerse yourself in Scripture, allowing it to guide and shape your understanding of God's purpose for your life. The Bible provides principles and truths that align with your destiny.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." (2 Timothy 3:16)

4. Listen to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is your guide, counselor, and teacher. Be sensitive to His leading and promptings as He directs your steps in accordance with God's plan.

"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth..." (John 16:13)

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God." (Romans 8:14)

5. Engage in Community. Surround yourself with fellow Believers who can encourage, support, and confirm the calling on your life. Community provides accountability and wisdom.

"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works." (Hebrews 10:24)

"Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety." (Proverbs 11:14)

6. Step Out in Faith. Walking in your destiny requires faith. Trust that God has prepared the way and step out in obedience, even when the path seems unclear or challenging.

"For we walk by faith not by sight." (2 Corinthians 5:7)

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." (Proverbs 3:5–6)

Living Out Your Destiny

Living out your destiny is a dynamic journey that involves continual growth and alignment with God's will. Here are some practical ways to live out your divine purpose:

1. Embrace Your Calling

Identify and embrace the specific calling God has placed on your life. Whether it's in ministry, business, education, or any other field, recognize that your work is a divine assignment.

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters." (Colossians 3:23)

"For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building." (1 Corinthians 3:9)

2. Cultivate Your Gifts

Develop and refine the gifts and talents God has given you. Invest in your skills through education, training, and practice to maximize your impact.

"Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership." (1Timothy 4:14)

"A man's gift makes room for him and brings him before great men." (Proverbs 18:16)

3. Serve Others

Use your gifts to serve others and advance God's Kingdom. True fulfillment comes from contributing to the well-being of others and fulfilling the good works prepared for you.

"The greatest among you shall be your servant." (Matthew 23:11)

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2)

4. Stay Grounded in Prayer

Maintain a strong prayer life to stay connected with God and receive His guidance. Prayer aligns your heart with His and empowers you to walk in your destiny.

"Pray without ceasing." (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God." (Philippians 4:6)

5. Remain Open to God's Leading

Be open to the Holy Spirit's leading and be willing to adjust your plans as He directs. Sometimes God's purpose unfolds in unexpected ways, requiring flexibility and trust.

"The mind of man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps." (Proverbs 16:9)

"Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established." (Proverbs 16:3)

The concept of destiny scrolls or books written concerning our lives is a profound reminder of God's intimate involvement in our existence. As His workmanship, created for good works, we are called to discover and walk in the divine purpose He has prepared for us. **By seeking intimacy with God, embracing our unique design, aligning with Scripture, and stepping out in faith, we can fulfill the destiny inscribed in our heavenly scrolls.** Let us live with the awareness that our lives are part of a greater divine narrative, orchestrated by the Creator for His glory and our ultimate fulfillment.

Prophetic Prayer for Finding God's Will

Heavenly Father, we come before You with humble hearts, seeking Your divine will for our lives. Just as Paul prayed for the Colossians, we ask that You fill us with the knowledge of Your will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives (see Colossians 1:9). We desire to walk in the fullness of Your purpose, guided by Your Spirit in every step we take.

Lord, we declare:

1. Revelation and Insight

Open our spiritual eyes to see the paths You have laid before us. Grant us revelation and insight into the mysteries of Your will. We ask for dreams, visions, and prophetic words that will illuminate our journey and confirm Your direction for our lives.

2. Wisdom and Understanding

Fill us with Your divine wisdom and understanding. Let our minds be renewed by Your Word, and our hearts be receptive to Your guidance. Holy Spirit, be our Counselor, teaching us and reminding us of everything Jesus said.

3. Discernment and Clarity

Grant us discernment to distinguish Your voice from the noise of the world. Remove any confusion or doubt and replace it with clarity and confidence in Your leading. May we recognize Your nudges and promptings as we navigate through life's decisions.

4. Alignment with Your Purpose

Align our desires and plans with Your divine purpose. Let our thoughts, words, and actions reflect Your will. May we walk in the good works that You have prepared for us, fulfilling the destiny written in our heavenly scrolls.

5. Boldness and Faith

Empower us to step out in boldness and faith, trusting that You have gone before us and prepared the way. Even when the path seems uncertain, help us to rely on Your promises and Your faithfulness.

Father, we pray that Your will would be done in our lives as it is in Heaven; that we would become vessels of Your love, grace, and truth in the world; that our lives would glorify You in all we do, bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of You. In Jesus' mighty name, amen.

If God has helped you to restore your building I would love to hear your testimony. Or if you need help you can contact me at catharinafr7@gmail.com.

Just remember that building takes time, and some buildings have to be repaired and that takes time but there is help to restore your life.

Remember God planned you to be a mansion not a shack.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

My ministry is called HADASSAH MINISTRY it is an online ministry, I send out a blog every week, with teachings and I do dream interpretations, I mentor people when God sends them to me. I have a website called Hadassahministery.wordpress.com. I also have a Hadassah ministry face book page.

For over 30 years after I completed a certificate in ministry course at Bible School at Alan Bagg's church the Lord has given me many assignments. This book is my newest assignment and came about after God told me to "Build my church" and He then gave me the word "foundations". I realized that He was giving me insight into why people's lives were a mess. My hope is that many lives will be restored when they have studied this book.

Be blessed

Catharina Fourie